**Action Points from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting held on the 12th October 2023**

**Attendance**

Malcolm Newing (Chair)

Greg Noble

Craig Champion

Bon Hine

David Venn

**Unable to attend**

Damian Willingale

Tracy Youngs

Nick Ellins

Andy Gardner

Michaela Gardner

Eileen Curry

1. **Introduction**

Malcolm explained that two significant issues had occurred in the past month. The grant request had been acknowledged and he was expecting notification this week that it had been agreed. (Update confirmation arrived this morning).

Secondly the status of the AV Local Plan had been impacted by AV having lost its 5-year land supply position, the situation having reduced to 4.5 years. This means the ‘tilted balance’ of S11 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is now operating for determining housing proposals outside of those protected areas referred in footnote 7 to that paragraph, e.g., Green Belt, AONBs. The effect of S11 is to lower the weight of adopted development plan policies – the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) and Neighbourhood Plans (NP) – to the extent that applicants need only show that any adverse impacts of their proposals are outweighed by their benefits. In simple terms this returns us to the situation that existed before there was an AV Local Plan and in addition the protection, we had by having met our housing target is now reduced.

Greg had attended a meeting at the Council this week in which Neil was the main speaker. The above was confirmed plus warnings were provided on the stated aims of the Labour Party should they get in power to take the current planning system to task. Given the degree of green belt in the South of Bucks and the proximity of MK, the North of Bucks is clearly likely to experience heightened threats from development applications. None of this changes our approach, as completion of the NP gives us the best protection we could hope for whatever the ensuing circumstances.

1. **Revised Project Plan**

Malcolm hadn’t currently got the facility to produce an updated project plan schematic (now attached with minutes) however he outlined the key dates as follows:

* Completion by PSG members of the draft Pre-Submission plan and production of amendments for dispatch to O’Neill Homer. End of October
* OH to complete final draft of Pre-Submission W/C 20th November
* PSG/PC sign Off W/C 27 November
* AECOM complete the SEA on the plan W/C 27 Nov- 31st Dec
* REG 14 Consultation Jan – Feb 2023
* OH Reg 14 Review Feb 2023
* Final Draft , SG and PC sign Off Mar 2023

1. **Pre-Submission Updates**

Malcolm explained that whilst PSG activity is targeted for the end of October when members have completed their activities, he would like to send them on to Neil as soon as available to give him as much flexibility as possible.

Malcolm N – Malcolm reported the Foreword was completed. He was working on the communication and consultation chapter which is the main gap in the draft document. Once completed he will circulate to the steering group members for sign off. He is reviewing the HNA data in the light of the 2021 census information which is now available at Parish level. He has yet to write up the Site Allocation section after the decisions made last month.

Greg N – He has reviewed the Stewkley NP as a guide. A survey has been issued to Parishioners which he wishes to accommodate in the section on Traffic Management. Malcolm requested following the decisions on sites that Greg focus on Newton Road impacts bearing in mind that a new access road is due for provision with significant new housing to be served by it. **Action: Greg N**

Bon H – Bon said she had looked at both the Aston Clinton and Quainton NP for bench marking purposes. This was useful in providing some additional items for the Design code. She also felt that the design code was well covered in written form but there was a need for supporting photographic material. Dave offered to supply the photographic material. **Action Bon H/Dave V**. Bon said she had trouble locating some of the earlier inputs from PSG meetings, Malcolm agreed to supply these to her. **Action: Malcolm N**

Dave V – Dave said he hadn’t made much progress on updating/reviewing the Green Infrastructure Area. Malcolm said he would discuss offline as a matter of urgency. **Action: Malcolm N/Dave V**

Eileen C - Unfortunately Eileen had been held up in Spain by the fire at Luton Airport. Malcolm would check her progress on Local Heritage Assets which she said she had in hand at the September meeting.

Damian W – Malcolm would check with Damian progress on his review of whether we needed an additional policy statement on Landscape issues.

Craig C – Craig agreed to look at all the policy sections with respect to Newton Leys to determine whether any additional site-specific commentary was necessary for this locality.

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Dave asked whether we could carry out another event in the community centre during the Reg 14 Consultation period. Everyone agreed that probably made sense and Malcolm would investigate planning this.

1. The date of the next meeting is the 16th November in the Community Centre.